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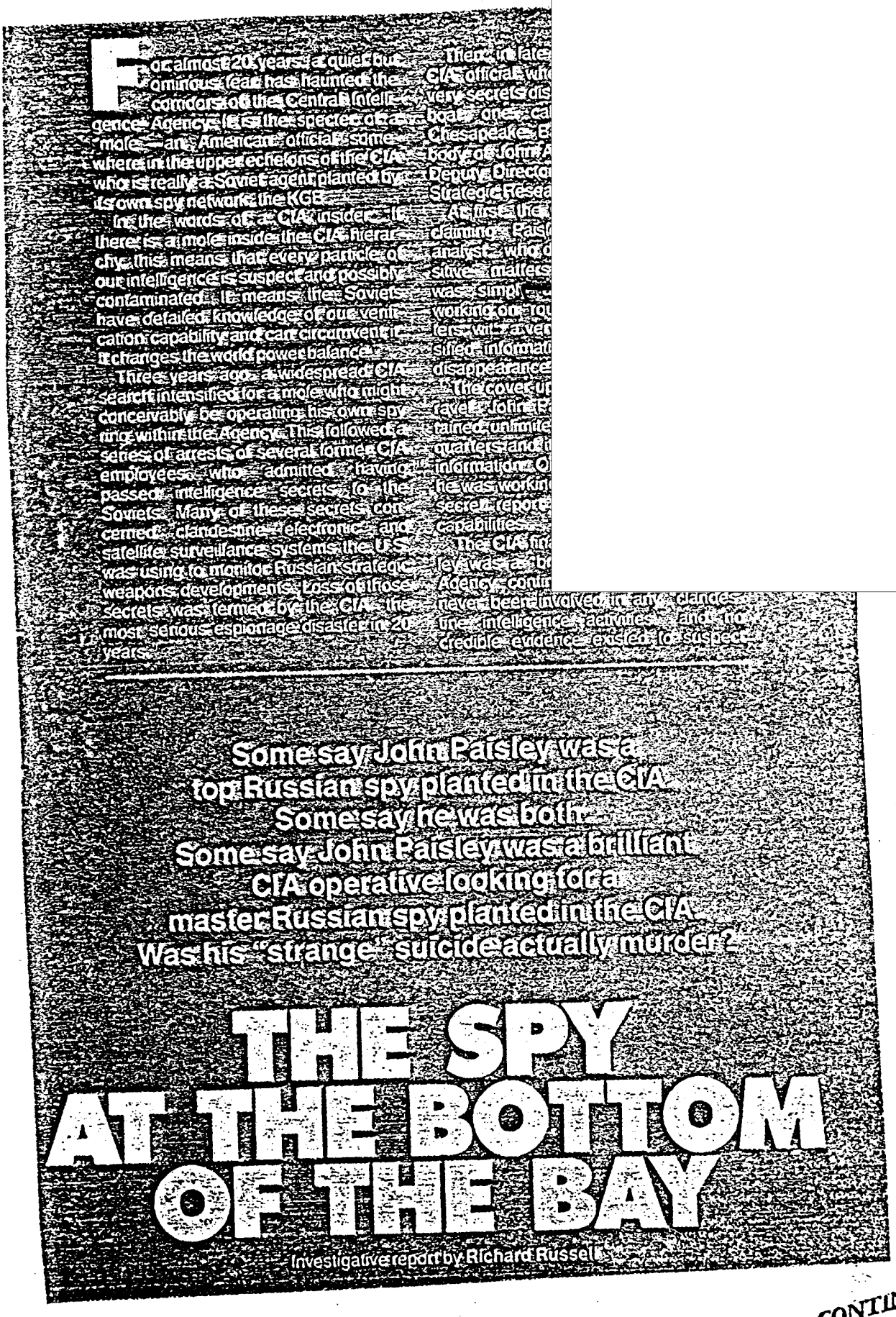
May 1981



For almost 20 years a quiet but ominous fear has haunted the corridors of the Central Intelligence Agency. It is the specter of a mole—an American official somewhere in the upper echelons of the CIA who is really a Soviet agent planted by its own spy network, the KGB.

In the words of a CIA insider, "If there is a mole inside the CIA hierarchy, this means that every particle of our intelligence is suspect and possibly contaminated. It means the Soviets have detailed knowledge of our communication capability and can circumvent it. It changes the world power balance."

Three years ago a widespread CIA search intensified for a mole who might conceivably be operating his own spy ring within the Agency. This followed a series of arrests of several former CIA employees who admitted having passed intelligence secrets to the Soviets. Many of these secrets concerned clandestine electronic and satellite surveillance systems the U.S. was using to monitor Russian strategic weapons developments. Loss of those secrets was termed by the CIA the most serious espionage disaster in 20 years.

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Some say John Paisley was a top Russian spy planted in the CIA. Some say he was both. Some say John Paisley was a brilliant CIA operative looking for a master Russian spy planted in the CIA. Was his "strange" suicide actually murder?

THE SPY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BAY

Investigative report by Richard Russell

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